

Message Text

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INFO RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 2193

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027794

FOL NDJAMENA 0413 SENT ACTION SECSTATE CAIRO DPA KHARTOUM

KINSHASA MOSCOW NIAMEY PARIS TRIPOLI VALLETTA FEB 1, 1978

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0413

VALETTA FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MOPS

SUBJECT: URGENT REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. MINISTER ZAKARIA CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT NOON
TODAY TO REQUEST THAT I SEND AN URGENT REQUEST TO
PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PRESIDENT MALLOUM FOR IMMEDIATE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT REBEL ATTACK AGAINST
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FAYA LARGEAU HAD COMMENCED LAST NIGHT AND WAS CONTINUING.
SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILES ARE BEING EMPLOYED IN THE
ASSAULT AS WERE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES IN THE DOWNING OF
TWO PLANES OVER THE WEEKEND. (FYI: IF REPORT OF SURFACE
TO SURFACE MISSILES IS ACCURATE, MORE SOPHISTICATED TROOPS
THAN TOUBOU REBELS ARE INVOLVED.) ZAKARIA POINTED OUT THAT
FALL OF FAYA LARGEAU WOULD FORCE THE EVACUATION OF OUNIANGA

KEBIR AND FADA; LEAVING THE NORTHERN HALF OF CHAD IN REBEL HANDS. HE PREDICTED THAT REBELS WOULD THEN MOVE AGAINST NDJAMENA WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND HE DOUBTED IF GOVERNMENT COULD WITHSTAND THEM.

2. IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION IS BEING REQUESTED FROM FRIENDLY WESTERN POWERS AS CHADIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES RUSSIAN INTERVENTION THROUGH LIBYA HASGDEACHED SUCH BLATANT PMINT THAT IT IS CLEARLY A SOVIET DESIGN TO OVERTHROW PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND REPLACE IT WITH A SOCIALISTIC ONE.

3. I TOLD ZAKARIA I WOULD TRANSMIT REQUEST IMMEDIATELY AND WOULD GET BACK TO HIM AS SOON AS I HAD A REPLY. HOWEVER, I CAUTIONED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS PROBABLY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

4. WHILE ZAKARIA'S PREDICTION ON SOUTH MAY BE OVERLY PESSIMISTIC, CHADIAN GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY ON BRINK OF DISASTER AND IF WE ARE GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO IPPORT IT, WE MUST ACT SOON. WHILE IT IS DOUBTFUL IFN COULD DO ANYTHING SOON ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF PRESENT FIGHTING IN THE NORTH, A STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND THE ARRIVAL BY AIR OF SOME AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM A THIRD COUNTRY COULD REENFORCE THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO HOLD THE SOUTH TOGETHER.

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5. IN VIEW OF URGENCY AND PRESIDENT'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, I NEED SOME SORT OF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. BRADFORD UNQUOTE VANCE

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